

Message Text

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TO USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA PRIORITY

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GENEVA FOR CSCE DELEGATION

INFO FOR PAOS

1. HIGHLIGHTS. THIS WEEK'S FRONT PAGES ARE DEVOTED MAINLY TO MIDEAST WAR. SUNDAY MONDAY PAPERS ALSO REPORTED GALLUP POLLS ON DEFENSE BUDGET AND TROOP CUTBACK; SUNDAY NYTIMES UNCLASSIFIED

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REPORTED SOVIET TROOP BUILDUP IN MIDDLE EUROPE; MONDAY NY-TIMES REPORTED US CHEMISTS SUPPORT TEAR-GAS AND HERBICIDE BAN; ALSO SENATORS AND OTHERS DISCUSS DEFENSE POLICY.

1A. INSIDE STORIES INCLUDED LOS ANGELES TIMES REUTERS REPORTING PM MESSMER SAYING PACIFIC ATOM TESTS WILL CONTINUE; ALSO THREE WASHPOST BRIEFS: MONDAY HONG KONG REPORTED CHINA ALLEGED RUSSIA HAS INCREASED ITS INTERCONTINENTAL MISSILE STRENGTH 15 FOLD IN PAST TEN YEARS; TUESDAY ITEM REPORTED SOVIET NUCLEAR TESTS ON NOVAYA ZEMBLA ARE CAUSING SMALL TREMORS IN HELSINKI; TODAY GENEVA REUTERS REPORTS US SOVIET SALT NEGOTIATORS TALKED 75 MINUTES IN FIFTH MEETING OF SECOND SERIES.

2. POLLS. BASED ON INTERVIEWS SEPTEMBER 21-24, GALLUP REPORTED IN SUNDAY PAPERS PUBLIC IS ABOUT EVENLY DIVIDED ON DEFENSE SPENDING WITH 46 PERCENT HOLDING THAT TOO MUCH IS BEING SPENT AND 43 PERCENT THAT THE AMOUNT IS EITHER ABOUT RIGHT OR TOO LITTLE, THIS REPRESENTING A SLIGHT INCREASE IN FAVOR OF A DEFENSE CUTBACK SINCE FIRST POST-VIETNAM SURVEY WAS TAKEN IN MARCH. ACTUAL PERCENTAGE NOW SAYING TOO LITTLE IS BEING SPENT IS 13, ABOUT RIGHT 30. DR. GALLUP ADDS THAT COLLEGE-EDUCATED RESPONDENTS ARE 51 PERCENT IN FAVOR OF CUTBACK, GRAMMAR-SCHOOLERS ONLY 39; DEMOCRATS FAVOR CUTBACK 55 PERCENT, REPUBLICANS ONLY 31, INDEPENDENTS 47. THOSE UNDER THIRTY YEARS OLD ARE MOST IN FAVOR OF CUTBACK, 56 PERCENT; THOSE FROM THIRTY TO FORTYNINE ARE ONLY 43 PERCENT FOR CUTBACK.

2A. MONDAY PAPERS REPORTED PUBLIC FAVORS CUTTING US TROOPS IN EUROPE. GALLUP SAYING NEARLY SIX IN TEN OF THOSE AWARE OF RECENT DISCUSSION ABOUT REDUCTION OF US NATO FORCES IN EUROPE FAVORED REDUCTION. GALLUP REPORTED THAT TWO PERSONS IN EVERY THREE SAID THEY HAD HEARD OR READ ABOUT THE ISSUE--84 PERCENT AMONG COLLEGE-EDUCATED. IN THIS AWARE GROUP 57 PERCENT SAID TROOPS IN EUROPE SHOULD BE REDUCED, 33 PERCENT SAID NO, 10 PERCENT NO OPINION. AMONG COLLEGE-EDUCATED, REDUCTION WAS FAVORED 63 TO 31 PERCENT; AMONG GRAMMAR-SCHOOLERS IT WAS 48 TO 35. EASTERN REGION WAS 60 UNCLASSIFIED

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PERCENT FOR REDUCTION, SOUTH ONLY 54; DEMOCRATS WERE 61 PERCENT IN FAVOR, REPUBLICANS 54. THE 33 PERCENT GROUP OF RESPONDENTS OPPOSED TO REDUCTION WAS THEN ASKED IF US SHOULD REDUCE IN CASE RUSSIA AGREES TO REDUCE ITS FORCES, WITH THESE RESULTS: YES 9 PERCENT, STILL OPPOSED TO REDUCTION 13 PERCENT, NO OPINION 11 PERCENT. GALLUP SAYS PRINCIPAL REASONS GIVEN FOR CUTBACK ARE: COST OF MAINTAINING TROOPS ABROAD, AND BELIEF A THIRD WORLD WAR WOULD NOT BE FOUGHT BY LARGE ARMIES EMPLOYING CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS. GALLUP'S FINAL QUESTION WAS ASKED OF ALL PERSONS IN THE SURVEY: IF ANOTHER WORLD WAR WERE TO BREAK OUT, DO YOU THINK NUCLEAR BOMBS AND WEAPONS ARE LIKELY TO BE USED OR NOT? RESULTS WERE: YES NUKES WOULD BE USED 68 PERCENT, NO 23 PERCENT, 9 PERCENT NO OPINION, WITH GALLUP FINDING LITTLE DIFFERENCE BY EDUCATIONAL OR OTHER BREAKDOWNS.

3. EUROPE. SATURDAY NYTIMES, BONN, WHITNEY REPORTED UNDER SECRETARY CASEY MET WITH WEST GERMAN OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS REPORTED US REQUEST FOR 3.3 BILLIONS OVER NEXT TWO YEARS TO OFFSET FOREIGN EXCHANGE DRAIN FROM PRESENCE OF US TROOPS. CASEY WOULD NOT CONFIRM OR DENY FIGURES BUT GERMAN SOURCES REPORTED US REQUESTED EIGHT BILLION MARKS IN COMPENSATION AT SEPT TALKS IN WASHINGTON. CASEY SAID

US EXPECTS RESULTING AGREEMENT FROM TALKS TO INVOLVE COMBINATION OF WEST GERMAN PURCHASES OF HEAVY WEAPONS AND OTHER MILITARY EQUIPMENT FROM US, BANK CREDITS, ASSOCIATED FINANCIAL MEASURES AND REFURBISHING BARRACKS AND OTHER FACILITIES FOR US TROOPS AT WEST GERMAN EXPENSE. WEST GERMANS HAVE LET IT BE KNOWN THAT WHILE THEY ARE WILLING CONTINUE MAKING TWO-WAY OFFSET AGREEMENTS WITH US, OTHER EUROPEAN ALLIES SHOULD ALSO BE PAYING SOME PART OF BILL.

3A. MONDAY NYTIMES MIDDLETON NEW YORK REPORTED SPENDING BY SOVIETS ON ITS MILITARY FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE HAS RISEN BY 10 BILLIONS IN RECENT YEARS, ACCORDING PROF JOHN ERICKSON, ONE OF BRITAIN'S LEADING AUTHORITIES ON SOVIET MILITARY, IN FIRST SPECIFIC PUBLIC ASSESSMENT OF OVER-ALL SOVIET REINFORCEMENTS IN AREA, APPEARING IN STRATEGIC REVIEW PUBLISHED BY US STRATEGIC INSTITUTE. INCREASE IN UNCLASSIFIED

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SOVIET TANK STRENGTH HAS BEEN SPECTACULAR, ACCORDING ERICKSON, AND AT LEAST FIVE AIRBORNE DIVISIONS HAVE BEEN ADDED AND TACTICAL AIR POWER IN CENTRAL EUROPE HAS BEEN INCREASED 50 PERCENT. ACCORDING MIDDLETON, WESTERN INTELLIGENCE SOURCES SURMISED SOVIET BUILDUP WAS EFFORT IMPROVE RUSSIAN POSITION AT MBFR. ERICKSON SAYS OPPOSITE IS THE CASE, THAT SOVIET MILITARY PRIORITIES COME FIRST AND IT IS THESE WHICH MUST BE FITTED INTO MBFR CONTEXT.

4. DEFENSE DISCUSSION. MONDAY BALTO SUN AP REPORTED SENATORS GOLDWATER AND HUMPHREY GIVING OPPOSITE VIEWS IN SEPARATE INTERVIEWS FOR US NEWS & WORLD REPORT, GOLDWATER SAYING US SHOULD INCREASE DEFENSE SPENDING THIS YEAR WHILE HUMPHREY SAID IT SHOULD BE CUT 4 TO 5 BILLIONS. GOLDWATER SAID STEPPED UP SPENDING DEPENDED ON HOW FAST WE MAKE PROGRESS ON WEAPONS WE'RE NOW DEVELOPING. HUMPHREY ARGUED CUTS ARE POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF END OF US INVOLVEMENT IN INDOCHINA AND BECAUSE THERE APPEARS TO BE BETTER WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH SOVIETS.

4A. MONDAY NYTIMES FINNEY REPORTED AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY HAS CALLED UPON ADMINISTRATION TO ACCEPT TOTAL BAN ON MILITARY USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS INCLUDING TEAR GAS AND HERBICIDES. SOCIETY ANNOUNCED IT HAD ABANDONED SUPPORT OF ADMINISTRATION POSITION THAT 1925 GENEVA TREATY ON CHEMICAL

AND BIOLOGICAL WARFARE DID NOT PRECLUDE USE OF TEAR GAS
AND HERBICIDES.

5. OTHER. TUESDAY WASHPOST MARDER REPORTED KISSINGER AT

PACEM IN TERRIS CONFERENCE SAID US MUST RECOGNIZE RISKS
FOR EAST-WEST DETENTE IN LEVYING DEMANDS UPON SOVIET UNION
TO LIBERALIZE ITS OWN SOCIETY. KISSINGER ASKED "HOW HARD
CAN WE PRESS WITHOUT PROVOKING SOVIET LEADERSHIP INTO RE-
TURNING TO PRACTICES IN ITS FOREIGN POLICY THAT INCREASE
INTERNATIONAL TENSION?" PUTTING OTHER QUESTIONS TO
CRITICS, KISSINGER SAID: "ARE WE READY TO FACE CRISIS AND
INCREASED DEFENSE BUDGETS THAT RETURN TO COLD WAR CONDITIONS
WOULD SPAWN? IS IT DETENTE THAT HAS PROMPTED REPRESSION
(INSIDE SOVIET UNION) OR IS IT DETENTE THAT HAS GENERATED
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FERMENT AND DEMAND FOR OPENNESS WHICH WE ARE NOW WITNESS-
ING?"

5A. WEDNESDAY NYTIMES CHARLTON REPORTS CLARK CLIFFORD,
ONE OF TWO DOZEN PARTICIPANTS IN PACEM IN TERRIS SPONSORED
BY CENTER FOR STUDY OF DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS, ATTACKED
ADMINISTRATION'S DEFENSE POLICIES IN GENERAL AND CURRENT
DEFENSE BUDGET IN PARTICULAR AS "ALL BUT OBLIVIOUS TO
GREAT CHANGES TAKING PLACE IN WORLD AROUND US." CLIFFORD
CHARGED PRESENT DEFENSE POLICIES COMBINED WITH RECENT
MOVES TOWARD DETENTE, HAD RESULTED IN PARADOX OF IN-
CREASING BUDGET FOR MILITARY PURPOSES IN WORLD IN WHICH
ALL POLITICAL SIGNS POINT TO LESS RATHER THAN MORE US
MILITARY ACTION.

5B. WEDNESDAY WASHPOST MARDER ADDS HERBERT YORK, FORMER
AIDE TO EISENHOWER AND KENNEDY, SAID NATION'S HIGHEST
PRIORITY SHOULD BE TO GET RID OF NUCLEAR STRATEGY OF
MUTUAL ASSURED DESTRUCTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. YORK SAID
NUCLEAR EXCHANGE WOULD RESULT IN HEAVY CIVILIAN CASU-
ALTIES AND WOULD RESULT IN CANCER AND LEUKEMIA CASUALTIES
IN OTHER PARTS OF WORLD BECAUSE WEAPONS WE RELY ON FOR
DETERRENCE ARE FROM 10 TO 100 TIMES AS MURDEROUS AND DE-
STRUCTIVE AS THEY NEED BE TO SATISFY PURPOSE. IN
NEGOTIATIONS WITH SOVIETS, SAID YORK, US SHOULD START BY
ELIMINATING NUCLEAR WEAPONS THAT DELIVER THE MOST MEGATONS
OF DESTRUCTION. YORK AND OTHER CRITICS CONTEND THERE IS
NO WAY TO ASSURE AN ADVERSARY WILL FOLLOW PATTERN OF
TARGETING TO MINIMIZE CIVILIAN CASUALTIES. KISSINGER

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